In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An arrangement for monitoring the status of and controlling the functions of aircraft cabin systems selected from a cabin information system, a cabin audio system, a cabin video system, a cabin lighting system, a cabin air conditioning system, a cabin smoke detector system, an aircraft door monitoring system, and a water supply and wastewater system, wherein:

~~wherein~~ said arrangement comprises a user interface panel comprising a liquid crystal display screen and a touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed at least partly over said display screen,

~~wherein~~ said user interface panel includes a basic layout including a general display area of said display screen and a plurality of touch input keys respectively labeled with system or function identifying symbols,

~~wherein~~ said arrangement further comprises a first system menu associated with a first one of said cabin systems and a second system menu associated with a second one of said cabin systems,

~~wherein~~ said first system menu can be selectively displayed on said general display area whereby said first system menu shows status information and operating functions of said first cabin system and allows a user to select and control said operating functions of said first cabin system via said touch sensitive surface input arrangement, [[~~and~~]]

~~wherein~~ said second system menu can be selectively displayed on said general display area whereby said second system menu shows status information and operating functions of said second cabin system and allows a user to select and control said operating functions of said second cabin system via said touch sensitive surface input ~~arrangement.~~ arrangement, and

said arrangement further comprises a main menu that can be selectively displayed on said general display area, depicts essential information representing system status about at least said first and second cabin systems, and allows the user to select a desired one of said first and second system menus from said main menu.

2. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said touch input keys respectively comprise respective touch input areas of said touch sensitive surface input arrangement, and said system or function identifying symbols are displayed on said display screen at locations respectively in registration with said touch input areas of said touch sensitive surface input arrangement.

3. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said touch input keys are permanent physical input keys separate and distinct from said touch sensitive surface input arrangement.

4. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising a computer connected to said user interface panel, and software to be executed in said computer for generating and displaying at least said first system menu and said second system menu on said general display area, and for evaluating and processing touch input signals from said touch sensitive surface input arrangement to select and control said operating functions of said first and second cabin systems.

Claim 5 (canceled).

6. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said basic layout further includes a header line which displays an identification of a respective active one of said menus that is being displayed on said general display area.

7. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said touch input keys of said basic layout are maintained available and accessible to the user continuously and regardless which of said menus is being displayed on said general display area.

8. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said user interface panel comprises a versatile adaptable touch sensitive screen that incorporates both said display screen and said touch sensitive surface input arrangement.

9. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first cabin system is said cabin audio system, said first system menu is a cabin audio system menu, and said cabin audio system menu includes display indicators and input buttons for the user to monitor, select and play pre-recorded announcements of said cabin audio system and to monitor and adjust an on-board music channel of said cabin audio system.

10. (original) The arrangement according to claim 9, wherein said display indicators and said input buttons include a numerical display field and an input keypad, which enable the user to input a corresponding number to select a desired one of the pre-recorded announcements.

11. (original) The arrangement according to claim 9, wherein said display indicators and said input buttons allow all of the pre-recorded announcements to be queued and played in sequence.

12. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first cabin system is said cabin lighting system, said first system menu is a cabin lighting system menu, and said cabin lighting system menu includes display indicators and input buttons for the user to monitor, select and adjust said cabin lighting system respectively individually for various different areas in an aircraft cabin.

13. (original) The arrangement according to claim 12, wherein said display indicators and input buttons provide three selectable brightness levels of illumination by said cabin lighting system in cabin entry zones in an aircraft cabin.

14. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said first cabin system is said aircraft door monitoring system, said first system menu is a door monitoring system menu, and said door monitoring system menu includes display indicators that represent each door and hatch of the aircraft and indicate a respective status thereof.

15. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising a status menu that can be selectively displayed on said general display area, whereby said status menu displays status information respectively regarding all of said cabin systems.

16. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising a programming menu that can be selectively displayed on said general display area, whereby said programming menu includes display indicators and input buttons to allow the user to program functions of a plurality of said cabin systems.

17. (original) A method of operating the arrangement according to claim 5, comprising the following steps carried out by a user:

a) touching a respective one of said touch input keys labeled with a respective one of said system identifying symbols associated with a desired one of said system menus or said main menu to call up and display said desired one of said system menus or said main menu on said general display area;

b) if said main menu is displayed on said general display area, then touching a portion of said main menu corresponding to a desired one of said system menus on said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed over said general display area;

c) when said desired one of said system menus is displayed on said general display area, touching a portion of said desired one of said system menus corresponding to a desired one of said operating functions on said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed over said general display area so as to select and adjust said desired one of said operating functions of a desired one of said cabin systems associated with said desired one of said system menus.

18. (new) An aircraft cabin systems controller that enables a user to monitor status information and to control functions of plural cabin systems in an aircraft cabin, said cabin

systems being selected from a group consisting of a cabin information system, a cabin audio system, a cabin video system, a cabin lighting system, a cabin air conditioning system, a cabin smoke detector system, an aircraft door monitoring system, and an aircraft water system, wherein said aircraft cabin systems controller comprises:

a user interface panel that includes a display screen and a touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed over at least a portion of said display screen;

a computer-generated first system display that is selectively displayed on said display screen, and that shows first status information and first operating functions of a first one of said cabin systems and allows the user to select and control said first operating functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said first system display on said display screen;

a computer-generated second system display that is selectively displayed on said display screen, and that shows second status information and second operating functions of a second one of said cabin systems and allows the user to select and control said second operating functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said second system display on said display screen; and

a computer-generated main cabin status display that is selectively displayed on said display screen, and that

shows overview status information regarding said first cabin system and said second cabin system, and that allows the user, by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said main cabin status display on said display screen, to select a desired one of said first and second system displays to be selectively displayed on said display screen.

19. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 18, wherein:

said controller further comprises a computer-generated third system display that is selectively displayed on said display screen, and that shows third status information and third operating functions of a third one of said cabin systems and allows the user to select and control said third operating functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said third system display on said display screen; and

said main cabin status display further shows said overview status information further regarding said third cabin system, and further allows the user to select said desired one of said system displays among said first, second and third system displays.

20. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 19, wherein:

said controller further comprises a computer-generated fourth system display that is selectively displayed on said

display screen, and that shows fourth status information and fourth operating functions of a fourth one of said cabin systems and allows the user to select and control said fourth operating functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said fourth system display on said display screen; and

said main cabin status display further shows said overview status information further regarding said fourth cabin system, and further allows the user to select said desired one of said system displays among said first, second, third and fourth system displays.

21. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 18, wherein said main cabin status display includes:

a first graphical aircraft symbol schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin, wherein said overview status information regarding said first cabin system is displayed on and/or adjacent to said first graphical aircraft symbol; and

a second graphical aircraft symbol schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin, wherein said overview status information regarding said second cabin system is displayed on and/or adjacent to said second graphical aircraft symbol.

22. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 21, wherein said touch sensitive surface input arrangement includes:

a first touch sensitive area that is superimposed on said first graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to said first system display to allow the user to select said first system display as said desired one of said system displays by touching said first touch sensitive area; and

a second touch sensitive area that is superimposed on said second graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to said second system display to allow the user to select said second system display as said desired one of said system displays by touching said second touch sensitive area

23. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 18, wherein said user interface panel further includes plural touch buttons that are respectively individually linked to respective ones of said system displays to allow the user to select said desired one of said system displays by touching a respective one of said touch buttons that is linked to said desired one of said system displays.

24. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 23, wherein all of said plural touch buttons are always available on said user interface panel when any one of said first system display, said second system display, and said main cabin status display is displayed on said display screen.

25. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 24, wherein said touch buttons comprise respective system identifying symbols that respectively identify respective ones of said system displays and that are displayed on said display screen, and respective touch sensitive areas of said touch sensitive surface input arrangement respectively superimposed on said system identifying symbols on said display screen.

26. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 24, wherein said touch buttons respectively comprise permanent physical input keys that are separate and distinct from said touch sensitive surface input arrangement and that are incorporated into said user interface panel.

27. (new) An aircraft cabin systems controller that enables a user to monitor status information and to control functions of plural cabin systems in an aircraft cabin, said cabin systems being selected from a cabin information system, a cabin audio system, a cabin video system, a cabin lighting system, a cabin air conditioning system, a cabin smoke detector system, an aircraft door monitoring system, and an aircraft water system, wherein said aircraft cabin systems controller comprises:

a user interface panel that includes a display screen and a touch sensitive surface input arrangement

superimposed over at least a portion of said display screen;

a computer-generated first system display that is selectively displayed on said display screen, and that shows first status information and first operating functions of a first one of said cabin systems and allows the user to select and control said first operating functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said first system display on said display screen;

a computer-generated second system display that is selectively displayed on said display screen, and that shows second status information and second operating functions of a second one of said cabin systems and allows the user to select and control said second operating functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said second system display on said display screen; and

a computer-generated main cabin display that is selectively displayed on said display screen and that includes first and second graphical aircraft symbols respectively schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin, and that allows the user, by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said main cabin display on said display screen, to select a desired one of said first and second system displays to be selectively displayed on said display screen;

wherein:

said touch sensitive surface input arrangement includes a first touch sensitive area that is superimposed on said first graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to said first system display to allow the user to select said first system display as said desired one of said system displays by touching said first touch sensitive area;

said touch sensitive surface input arrangement further includes a second touch sensitive area that is superimposed on said second graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to said second system display to allow the user to select said second system display as said desired one of said system displays by touching said second touch sensitive area; and

said user interface panel further has incorporated therein plural touch buttons that are respectively individually linked to respective ones of said system displays to allow the user additionally to select said desired one of said system displays by touching a respective one of said touch buttons that is linked to said desired one of said system displays.

28. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 27, wherein all of said plural touch buttons are always available on said user interface panel when any one of said first system display, said second system display, and said main cabin display is displayed on said display screen.

29. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 28, wherein said touch buttons comprise respective system identifying symbols that respectively identify respective ones of said system displays and that are displayed on said display screen, and respective touch sensitive areas of said touch sensitive surface input arrangement respectively superimposed on said system identifying symbols on said display screen.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]